

"A Know, Know!"

Psalms 139:23,24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts;
and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Where we lived in the central part of the ~~state~~ state, we became friends with a young widow who had two children. The ~~youngest girl was just a baby~~ youngest girl was just a baby, and she asked Shirley if she would babysit the children. ~~and the girl held~~

The youngest was a baby and the older girl was _____ old. Amy, the older girl would go into the living room where Jennifer was sleeping on the couch and after a short time she would have Jennifer awake, because she pushed and pulled at her. Naturally, Amy would be crying and it was difficult to get her to go back to sleep. We would say to Amy, "Don't you know that ~~xxx~~ you should let Jennifer sleep Amy?" And she would answer, "I Know!" And then we would ask, "Well, why don't you let her sleep?" And she would answer, "I don't know!" Now we may think ~~that~~ ^{that knowing, and not knowing} is a common thing among children only, but this is incorrect. Knowing, and not knowing is indicative of all ages of people in all walks of life from small children to elderly people. We speak of ~~things~~ some things we should do and others we should not do. Those we ~~classify~~ should not do, we classify as "No, No's." Well, even in the Bible, there are many "No, No's", but there is also the realm of "Knowing and Not Knowing." The 139th Psalm is a good example of this and a Psalm that I would entitle "A Know, Know," spelling the word ~~know~~ know.

Biblical scholars dispute the authorship of this particular Psalm, and some say the author is unknown, and others claim David as its author. I personally believe that David wrote it, regardless of what others are using as their criteria for another author. If you read this Psalm through several times, you will see in it, the hand of someone who has known and lived through all that he is writing about. The author has internalized all of this, and has agonized all of this in his own life. This is not just a lovely Psalm of lovely words and lovely phrases, but it is instead a Psalm of deep thought and deep conviction. It is a Psalm that could not have been written much like some of our modern writers sit down to pen some lines that will make a

best seller.

But let us look at it, and analyse it to see what is being said. In the first 6 verses, (read them) we see that David has drawn the conclusion that God is indeed omniscient, or in other words that he knows everything that is going on. That God understands. In today's word there is a very definite contrast between this Psalm and our thinking. Much is made today of man and his search for God. We keep saying that man is looking for God and seeking Him everywhere. But little or nothing is said of the search of God for us, and for His knowledge of who and what we are.

One of the most often heard complaints of people today, is that they are misunderstood. Our young people tell us, "You just don't understand." We live, we act, we speak in all sincerity, only to learn that our motives and our desires have been misinterpreted and we are misquoted. Walter Eccles wrote a poem about this very thing, which he entitled, "Not Understood."

(Illustration of Eccles poem, page 713, col. B Interpreter's Bible, vol. 4)
The plea which Mr. Eccles makes in the last lines of this poem are echoed by David, but with the assurance that God does see all, and know all about us, even if we are misunderstood by men.
(read 7-12)

In the next few verses we see the questioning of David as he inquires whether he is ever able to be out of sight of God. No matter where he goes God is there, that even in the depths of hell, or the uttermost parts of the sea, God is present. ~~This~~ This can be a comforting thought as well as a disturbing one.

(Illustration of Big-Godder, Barnhouse pg 132)

This is the kind of man David was, he was a Big-Godder. God was everywhere, He knew everything about everyone, He could not be escaped from. This is the kind of God we must have, if we are to really, love and worship Him in faith and truth.

read verse 13-18,

Here David acknowledges that God was aware of him when he was just a small micro-organism that was being joined to another micro-organism within

the body of his mother. This is a theory that makes one pause to truly comprehend the love of God. Even before we were anything, God knew of us. How wonderful this is, and yet could we expect anything less from God? In His infinite love and wisdom He planned for us, He wanted us to come forth and to be a part of His creation. Yet, how often do we live like this? Do we not instead grumble and moan and sometimes even question, "Why was I ever born? Why am I here? What purpose is life for me, and how can I go on?" Our ~~praise~~ questioning should cease, and we should instead begin to praise God for all of His works, and we should echo the words of David, (vss 17,18) "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with thee."

But then David remembers that he is still among those who do not acknowledge God and he is concerned as to what will happen to these people. He wants the comfort and the assurance that the living of the ~~good~~ Godly life is not in vain, and so he speaks these thoughts out loud by stating what he believes God will do.
(verses 19-22)

Now we must remember that this is the Old Testament and Christ had not spoken to the hearts of the Old Testament people. When Christ came He gave the new commandments and a part of these was to love your enemies. He told his followers to do good to those who spitefully use you, and to seek to love all men, whether good or evil. But one thing He did not tell us to do, and that was to love sin. He said to love the sinner, but not to love the sin. In essence this is a part of what David is saying in these verses. He is saying that he is radically disturbed by those who are going against the will of God, and he cannot stand this type of living and he is counting these people as enemies of God. Which is what they were. David is showing forth righteous indignation which is proper and just. Jesus showed forth this type of thinking when he cast out those who were buying and selling in the Temple. But the danger in righteous indignation is that

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" O Come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 17, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BILL WATTERSON AND RANDY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THEME FROM 'FINLANDIA'" SIBELIUS
"WHEN GOD LEADS" CLARKE

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 31 "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME"

*ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL, WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASING TO THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND A CLEAR MIND, WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PSALM 139

HYMN No. 315 "LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "ANDANTE GRAZIOSO"

MOZART

ANTHEM: "IS THERE ANYBODY HERE?"

WILSON

SERMON: "A KNOW, KNOW!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 311 "NOW ONCE AGAIN FOR HELP"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ANTIPHON" MUFFAT

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MRS. GRACE RIDDLE FOR MR. & MRS. STEVE VARGO IN HONOR OF THEIR 7TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY (NOV. 18). SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *PAUL RIEMER, DARYL TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR, DON KINGSLEY.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 227.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: MRS. MARGARET COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. W. W. PFABE - BOMH. Everett McCandless

TODAY - TIME AND TALENT SHEETS ARE DUE - PLEASE RETURN THEM TO BEA IN THE OFFICE - IF YOU ARE NOT FINISHED CALLING - PLEASE DO SO THIS WEEK. THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT FOR THE YEAR BOOK.

MONDAY - 6:00 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS TUREEN SUPPER - THERE WILL ALSO BE A GRAB BAG.

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE MEETING - THEY WILL BE MAKING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS - MEMBERS WILL NEED SCISSORS.

THURS. - 6:30 - BUTLER AREA LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION FALL DINNER AND MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S UCC AT CONNOQUENESSING. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ROBERT TAIT, J. W. HARMON AND PAUL PFABE.

AN ORDER WENT IN LAST WEEK FOR THE DELUXE CLOTH BOUND LIVING BIBLE WHICH WITH A SPECIAL COUPON FROM THE CHURCH (COST WILL BE \$7.47). ANOTHER ORDER WILL BE GOING THIS WEEK - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COPY - PLEASE LEAVE BEA TAIT KNOW. THE CHILDREN'S LIVING BIBLE IS \$4.91 ALSO AVAILABLE WITH A COUPON. A COPY OF THE ADULT LIVING BIBLE IS IN THE OFFICE SHOULD YOU WANT TO SEE IT.

NEXT SUNDAY - 7:00 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE

DON'T FORGET - GREENVILLE HOME NEEDS - PANTYHOSE, NYLONS, BITS OF YARN, TRIMMING, EMPTY SPOOLS.

Even B4 we anything G knew us
 How wonder yet could we expect less from G?
 In infin love/mercy He planned 4 us
 He wanted us come 4th B part His creation
 Yet how often we live like this?
 () not insted grumb/moan/quest,
 "Why was I born? What purpose of life 4 me? How
 can I go on?" begin
 Our quest should cease & we ~~xxxxxx~~ instead praise
 G 4 all works & echo words Dav 17-18
 But Dav remems he still among peop no know G
 He concern what hap these peop
 he want comf & assur liv Gly life not in vain
 & so he speak thots aloud, state what G will do
 Vsss 19-22
 Must remem this OT & no Xp speak harts peop OT
 When Xp came gave new Commands, we 2 love enemies
 He told folls do good those deppite use U
 seek luv all men good/evil
 But he no tell love sin
 Told luv sinner, but not sin
 In essence this Dav say these vss
 He say radic disturb those against will of G
 " cannot stand this type living & he count as
 enemies of G. & they were
 Dav show right. indig, which prop & just
 Js showed this in Temp.
 but danger right indig we judge/jury in lives peop
 Must no do, but commend care Al.G, & He jusge
 v. 23,24
 Dav close Ps with prayer
 he pray G serch hart/mind/soul
 he ask G look inward deep see if wick then lead
 etern life
 not only pray comf & self-ex, but no1 pray
 unless complete will open life eye of Al G
 Dav seek all this Ps have G know him & know G as
 this "A Know, Know," Ps well
 P. I Cor. 13:12 say another way,
 "Now I know in part, but then shall I ~~xx~~ know, even
 as I am known."
 2 know & B known essence of Xpianity & Xpian
 (Illustration man/operation/testimony)
 Here man who knew in whom place comp. trust & conf.

"A Know, Know!"

Text: Psalm 139:23,24,
 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and
 know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way
 in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
 Amy and Jennifer Barkley/Amy woke her up.
 "I know." "I don't know."
 Knowing/unknowing common all peop, not only child
 Things no should do call no no's.
 139 Ps, Ps of Know, Know, spell K
 Bib schols argue author/I say David
 Not love Ps love words/phrases
 Ps deep thot & deep conviction
 Not writ as mod writers make best sell.
 Vss 1-6,
 Dav draw conclus G omniscient/all knowing
 He know all/see all
 in 2day worls conflict with this,
 man say he search 4 God
 but little/nothing said G search 4 man
 1 most often herd complaint peop not understood.
 Yg peop "You no understand
 we live/act/speak all sincerity, yet misunder
 (Walter Eccles poem "Not Understood)
 plea Eccles make last line echoed by Dav,
 but assur G see-all/know-all about us, even if
 misunderstood by men.
 V. 7-12
 Dav quest ever able B out site of G
 No matter where go G there
 even depths of hell He there/uttermost part sea
 this comfort as well as disturbing
 (Illustration Big-Godder)
 This Dav, He Big-Godder
 G everywhere/know everything about everyone.
 No can escape Him
 This God we must have if we really love/worsh/
 in faith and truth.
 Vss 13-18
 Dave acknow G aware him when just micro-organism
 being joined another micro-organism within body
 mother.
 This theory make 1 pause truly comprehend lov of God.

In fact place very life
 This what all should B able do
 We should echo words Dav B able say as he did,
 s 23,24,
 "Search me O God, and know my heart; try me and
 know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way
 in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
 Know me, & whether Xp lives within me.
 Test me, & see how strong my faith is.
 Cleanse me from all evil & wicked & lead me ever
 toward etern life with You.
 To know Js Xp is 2 B able speak comp faith/assur
 To know Saviour is 2 know Father
 To know He lived/died/ 4 us, 2 know that which
 leads way everlasting
 May we each B "A Know, Know," in this life,
 & may we also B "A Know, Know," in G's etern
 kingdom, thru our knowing Js Xp as our Saviour.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.